

# GUARDIAN OF PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

February 23, 2007

# **Preparedness and Planning**

#### U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Posts ICS Information

In many ways the USCG is leading the way in Incident Command System (ICS) implementation and use. Their products are available online. Of note, the USCG 2006 <a href="Incident Management Handbook">Incident Management Handbook</a> is available in English, Arabic, Spanish, and other languages.

#### **BioSense Budget Decreased**

On February 5, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) requested \$57 million for BioSense in the <u>2008 fiscal budget</u>, down \$200,000 from what Congress approved in 2007. The CDC said it will realign the program and narrow its scope to focus on public health preparedness in the most populous cities in the country.

#### **FEMA Forms National Advisory Council**

Prompted by the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006, the Homeland Security Department's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is creating a <u>National Advisory Council</u>. FEMA said the council will play an advisory role, helping the agency's administrator ensure proper coordination of federal preparedness, protection, response, recovery and mitigation for natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other manmade disasters.



#### **Surgical Masks Offer Aerosal Protection**

The relative protection afforded by surgical and N-95 masks is an important issue that is prompting much debate in the process of planning for outbreaks of infectious respiratory diseases such as SARS or an influenza pandemic. In a recent <u>article</u> published in the *American Journal of Industrial Medicine*, researchers report the results of their study comparing surgical masks and N95 respirators. The authors found that N95 respirators filtered out 97% of a test aerosol while surgical masks did almost as well, filtering out 95% of the aerosol.

#### Moving beyond "Special Needs"

The "special needs" population is often viewed as a homogeneous group. The authors in this <u>article</u> argue that a function-based framework allows emergency managers to define, locate, reach and plan comprehensively for managing resources and individuals' specific functional needs of people. It helps avoid planning that relies on diagnostic labels and definitions of disability used primarily for programmatic eligibility – categories which are often not helpful in preparing for, responding to and recovering from an emergency.

#### News

#### **MDCH Laboratory Centennial**

The Michigan Department of Community Health's (MDCH) Bureau of Laboratories is celebrating its 100th anniversary. In 1907, the Michigan Legislature passed Act 109, which authorized \$3665 for the Lansing laboratory. In 1919, the Lansing laboratory combined with another unrelated bacteriological lab in Houghton to officially form the Bureau of Laboratories. The Bureau of Laboratories continues to strive for excellence. Updates on activities and projects during the 100th Anniversary Celebration will be available on the MDCH-BOL website.



See page 3 for more information.

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## **Pandemic**

#### Study Suggests Possible Bird Flu Immunity

The influenza virus's major surface proteins are the principal targets of the human body's immune response. Recent <u>research</u> published in the Public Library of Science's journal *Medicine* suggests that humoral immunity induced by one of the major surface proteins can markedly reduce virus replication and release, thereby shortening the severity and duration of illness.

# Ontario PanFlu Planning Toolkit for Businesses

The information contained in this <u>toolkit</u> has been prepared to assist businesses in planning and preparing for the potential influenza pandemic. Nonetheless, the guidelines and resources referenced herein will also assist your business in planning for and responding to catastrophic events more generally.

# WHO Has Promising Results on Avian Influenza Vaccines

Sixteen manufacturers are developing prototype pandemic influenza vaccines against H5N1 avian influenza virus. Five of them are also involved in the development of vaccines against other avian viruses (H9N2, H5N2, and



H5N3). More then 40 clinical trials have been completed or are ongoing, and all vaccines were safe and well tolerated in all age groups tested. For the first time, <u>results</u> have convincingly demonstrated that vaccination with newly developed avian influenza vaccines can bring about a potentially protective immune response against strains of H5N1 virus found in a variety of geographical locations.

## Communications

#### **MSUE Offers One-Minute Preparedness Tips**

Michigan State University Extension (MSUE) has developed a range of one-minute preparedness tips for the public. Recently they have posted information on portable generators, the incident management system, and updates on the spinach and *E. coli* outbreaks. See the <u>MSUE website</u> for more information.

#### Mobile PanFlu Application

Public Health Games developed the first interactive cell phone application with pandemic flu preparedness information. "Mobile PanFlu Prep" is free to download on select phones from Cingular, Sprint, and T-Mobile. This application is an emergency alert system that would rely on the Global Positioning System (GPS) features built into many of today's mobile handsets. In areas hit with an outbreak, people who carry GPS-enabled mobile phones and are subscribed to the alert service would receive an emergency alert text message with instructions about where to go or what to do during specific emergencies.

#### Franklin Global Translator

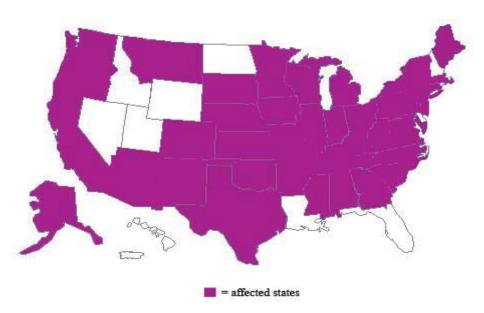
Franklin's new <u>Speaking Global Translator</u> contains over 450,000 words and 12,000 phrases, and speaks 115,000 words in recorded human voice. A voice recording feature allows you to record custom words and phrases appropriate to travel or business needs. Ideal for communicating on almost any continent

with 12 languages and translations to and from Chinese (Mandarin), Dutch, English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Polish, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish.

## Surveillance

#### Multi-State Salmonella Outbreak

Public health officials in multiple states are investigating an <u>outbreak</u> of *Salmonella* Tennessee infections. Interviews comparing foods eaten by ill and well persons show that consumption of Peter Pan peanut butter was statistically associated with illness and therefore the most likely source of the outbreak. Although the study did not specifically implicate Great Value brand peanut butter, it is manufactured in the same plant as Peter Pan peanut butter and therefore is believed to be at similar risk of contamination. As of February 15, Michigan had five confirmed cases.



#### **MSUE Posts Avian Influenza Presentations**

Michigan State University Extension (MSUE) has posted important avian influenza presentations on their website. These video presentations, in Windows Media Player format, deliver the perspectives of various state agencies and departments and offer an assessment of Michigan's current risk. Local health departments are invited to show the videos at local events and meetings.

- Introduction Steve Halstead
- MSU Mick Fulton
- MDNR Steve Schmitt
- MDCH Dr. Eden Wells
- MDA Dr. Steve Halstead

#### South Korea Kills Birds after Flu Outbreak

On February 10, South Korean quarantine officials began slaughtering hundreds of thousands of poultry after a fresh outbreak of bird flu in a province near the South Korean capital. The outbreak - the sixth in South Korea in recent months - was caused by the H5 strain of the virus; further tests are needed to determine whether the N1 type was involved. Quarantine officials will kill 240,000 poultry within a two-mile radius of the outbreak site at a chicken farm in Anseong, about 50 miles south of Seoul. That brings the total number of birds culled in the six outbreaks to more than 2 million since November.

#### **Indian Health Service Prepares for Pandemic**

In one day in November 2006, the Indian Health Service vaccinated 24,000 members of the Navajo tribe against flu. It was the largest <u>mass vaccination</u> in the United States, and it was perhaps the closest simulation yet of an inoculation for a pandemic outbreak. The mass vaccination at 15 sites proved how ready IHS is to respond to a regional public health emergency. The exercise tested the agency's ability to manage communications and response resources using alert and incident response management services.

# **Healthcare Preparedness**

#### Health Professionals Gauge Their Emergency Preparedness

On February 13, Saginaw County health care professionals explored how prepared they are for a wide-spread emergency. The Saginaw County Department of Public Health and the Saginaw County Emergency Preparedness Council's Modular Emergency Medical System subcommittee sponsored the conference, "Medical Surge Capacity - Community Partnership." Topics included the role of public health in an emergency, surveillance and disease reporting. The conference will work to build stronger emergency preparedness partnerships throughout the medical community. The conference will be offered again on February 27. Visit the Saginaw County Department of Public Health's website for more information.

# **Regional News**

#### Two Michigan Health Departments Receive Award

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) launched a three-year \$15 million national initiative to help state and local public health agencies better respond to health threats by improving their use of information systems. RWJF awarded two Michigan local public health departments this prestigious award. The Genesee County Health Department received funding to develop and improve business processes related to the prevention and control of sexually transmitted diseases with their "S.T.D. with I.T." program. The Monroe County Health Department received funding to develop and improve processes related to maternal and child health focusing on the integration of WIC and Maternal and Infant Health Programs.





# Region 3: "Shooter in the Building": An Example of a Policy that Worked

November 13, 2006 was a routine day for one of the hospitals in Region 3, but that ended quickly in mid-morning. The events that unfolded showed what happens when you combine a well-written emergency policy with effective staff training.

At about 10:00 AM that morning, two men robbed a bank across the street from the hospital, and after shooting a teller, fled. They ran through a park near the hospital where one of the robbers ran into a police car and was captured. The other robber was identified as entering the hospital on surveillance videos.

In their emergency policy, the hospital had designated a special code number for a "shooter in the building". On the morning of November 13, hospital



staff announced the code number over the communications system. The hospital's security team quickly blocked off connecting passages to other sections of the hospital campus. The hospital staff rapidly sheltered staff, patients and visitors in place. The Incident Command Center was set up and coordinated the response of security and kept the staff informed

of the progress. The lockdown was continued as police searched the hospital floor-by-floor and room-by-room. At 12:35 PM the police found the gunman hiding in a closet. At 1:01 PM, the "all clear" was given; social worker staff began visiting every area of the hospital to help staff.

A debriefing session and evaluation process quickly followed the event. Not only did the hospital policy and staff training pay off, but the refinement process continued as the response was evaluated and lessons learned were developed. One noted success was the CISM work by social work and pastoral care personnel using training funded through the Regional BT grant. The hospital continues to refine its policies for this and other potential emergencies.

## Other News

#### **April 16-20 is National Public Health Week**

Statewide public health partners are planning for Michigan's observance of National Public Health Week from April 16-20. This year's theme is "Take the First Step! Preparedness and Public Health Threats: Addressing the Unique Needs of the Nation's Vulnerable Populations." Public Health Week will provide an opportunity to highlight public health in Michigan and emphasize the need for continued funding of essential public health services. Five daily themes will be highlighted through media outreach and events:

- April 16: mothers with children in the household
- April 17: local food banks
- April 18: hourly-wage workers and employers
- April 19: schools serving children in kindergarten through 12th grade
- April 20: chronic health care needs, with a focus on diabetes, asthma, cancer and high blood pressure.

For more information about National Public Health Week, visit the American Public Health Association <u>website</u>. For questions related to Michigan's planning efforts, contact Ms. Alison D'Amico at (517) 485-0660 or adamico@ malph.org or Mr. Jim Koval at (517) 335-8150 or kovalj@michigan.gov.

#### Financial Incentive for Vaccines for Underdeveloped Countries

International community leaders have proposed an Advanced Market Commitment <u>instrument</u> to provide financial incentives to harness the creativity of private-sector research organizations to develop new vaccines to combat the diseases that disproportionately affect underdeveloped countries. The diseases that are being considered as early targets for new vaccines are: HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, cervical cancer (human papillomavirus), pneumococcal diseases and rotavirus diarrhea.

# **Training & Education**

Date	Event	Location
Feb. 27, 2007 1-2:30pm	When the System is Overwhelmed: Protecting the Provider During Biodisaster This presentation looks at the impact of various public health disasters on both the system and the emotional dynamics of caretakers. Lessons learned from these types of scenarios regarding planning and implementation of plans are reviewed, as are data that reflect on the long-term implications to staff health and functioning. For more information view the informational flyer.	OPHP * Large Training Room (517) 335-8150
Feb. 28, 2007 2-3pm	ComNet: Communications, News, Equipment & Training Featured stories include: Intelligence Fusion and Analysis, Improvised Explosive Devices, Detection of Bio-Threat Agents, WMD Radiological Nuclear Course for Hazardous Materials Technicians. For more information visit course website.	OPHP * Large Training Room (517) 335-8150
Mar. 12, 2007 12:30-3pm or Mar. 12, 2007 12:30-3pm or May 1, 2007 8am-4pm	DelValle Institute For Emergency Preparedness Mini-Conferences 2007 The series will demonstrate the need for information sharing, interagency communication, personal preparedness and risk awareness, as well as suggest strategies for meeting these needs. Series topics include: Lessons Learned From Hurricane Katrina, Lessons Learned From Columbine, Public Safety Response to Meth Labs, and Medical Intelligence and Information Sharing. For more information see the informational flyer.	TBD
Mar. 19, 2007 8am-3:30pm	Chemical Sleuthing: Web-Based Tools for Public Health This one-day interactive training course will teach strategies to find relevant information using the internet and to utilize specialized computer-based chemical tools. The free training course is entirely hands-on and uses chemical emergency scenarios to provide real-life examples of these resources. Sign up for the (limited seating) face-to-face course in Lansing. Or, sign up for the distance learning (live webcast) course. Register online, by email at prepared@umich.edu, or by phone at (734) 763-6526.	Online
Mar. 22, 2007 1-2:30pm	Psychology of Terrorism and Psychological Counterterrorism: 7 Things You Should Know This program will focus on the most important component of the war, which is the psychology of the weapon itself and its implications for public health preparedness and response. For more information view the informational flyer.	OPHP * Large Training Room (517) 335-8150
Mar. 28, 2007 2-3pm	Critical Resource Logistics & Distribution In the event of a natural or manmade disaster, critical resources will be necessary for preservation of life, safety, and security. Preparedness plans must include a way to identify, dispatch, mobilize, accurately track, and demobilize available human and material resources across all incident phases. We will explore Critical Resources Logistics and Distribution on this edition of Live Response. For more information visit the informational website.	OPHP * Large Training Room (517) 335-8150

<sup>\*</sup> For all events at OPHP, please call to schedule at least 24 hours prior to the start of the event.

Date	Event	Location
Apr. 26, 2007 1pm-2: 30pm	SNS Asset Deployment This broadcast will focus on many of the issues facing both public health planners and their local treatment center partners, including the asset request process, apportionment considerations, and training for treatment center managers and employees. State and local SNS planners and health care professionals will share their experiences in developing coordinated plans for an emergency response, demonstrating the importance of strong partnerships between local health care entities and public health during an SNS response. Registration will soon be available through <a href="CDC/ATSDR Training website">CDC/ATSDR Training website</a> .	Satellite Broadcast and Webcast
Apr. 30-May 4 or Aug. 27-31, 2007	Advanced Public Information Officers Course The goal of this course is prepare PIO's to make significant, positive contributions to their community's response to health-related emergencies by providing credible information to the public. Students will learn to apply their knowledge and skills toa health emergency situation through instruction and a series of practical exercises. Course topics include: legal issues, risk communication, interpersonal skills, conflict resolution, communicating during an emergency, media relations, use of the joint information center and stress management. There is no charge to the student for this training. FEMA will reimburse students for their travel expenses to the course. For information about the course contact Mr. Pete Vogel, course manager, at (301) 447-1101 or pete.vogel@dhs.gov.	Noble Training Center 490 Care Drive Ft. McClellan, AL 36205 (256) 240-7500
May 6-9, 2007	6th UCLA Conference on Public Health and Disasters Opening Keynote: Public Health and the Human Cost of War Presented by: Frederick M. Burkle, Jr., MD, MPH, DTM Senior Fellow, Harvard Humanitarian Initiative Harvard School of Public Health Closing Keynote: The 150th Anniversary of the Fort Tejon Earthquake Presented by: Lucile Jones, PhDProject Chief, Multi-Hazards Demonstration Project U.S. Geological Survey To register, please visit UCLA's Center for Public Health website.	Torrance Marriott 3635 Fashion Way Torrance, CA 90503 (310) 316-3636
May 8-11, 2007	Great Lakes Homeland Security Training Conference and Expo "Coming Together Under One Umbrella"  The combined effort of the Michigan State Police, Emergency Management & Homeland Security Division, the Michigan Department of Community Health, Office of Public Health Preparedness, the Michigan Emergency Management Association, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation will provide a broad range of top-rated speakers, handson workshop sessions, an expanded exhibit hall and networking opportunities. Watch for additional information on the MSP-EMHSD website.	Devos Place 303 Monroe Grand Rapids, MI 49503 (616) 742-6500
Jun. 13-15, 2007	Great Lakes Border Health Initiative Annual Conference Plenary topics and breakout session track topics will be available soon on the GLBHI website, along with the official agenda and registration information. For more information, or to be added to the GLBHI mailing list, please contact Kathy Allen-Bridson at (517) 335-8199 or allen-bridsonk@michigan.gov or Michelle Bruneau at (517) 335-6533 or bruneaum@michigan.gov.	Conf Ctr Niagara Falls 101 Old Falls Street Niagara Falls, NY 14303 (716) 278-2100

Date	Event	Location	
Jun. 14, 2007 8am – 4:30pm	"Expanding Roles & Responsibilities" 2nd Annual Conference - The Contributing Human Service Worker in Disaster Planning Topics include: Children and Terrorism, Contingency Planning, Immediate Post Event Interventions: Helpful or Harmful?, Incident Command Systems, Safety and Situational Awareness, Changing Roles, Human Response to Disaster and Reaching Vulnerable Audiences in an Event. Target audience: Social Workers, Psychologists, Psychiatrists, Physicians, Nurses, Teachers, School Administrators, Clergy, and any other interested parties. To register please visit the MI-TRAIN website.	Lansing Sheraton 925 South Creyts Rd Lansing, MI 48917 (517) 323-7100	
Jul. 8-27, 2007	Graduate Summer Session in Epidemiology Presented by the University of Michigan's School of Public Health. Courses offered are for all public health professionals and those interested in health research. One- and Three-Week courses are avail- able including topics such as: Fundamentals of Biostatistics and Epidemiology, Infectious Diseas- es, Public Health Practice, Molecular Epidemiol- ogy of Cancer, Clinical Trials, SAS, Logistic Model, Linear Regression, Survival Analysis, Behavioral Change, Social Epidemiology, Longitudinal Stud- ies, Global Health, Pharmacoepidemiology, Sur- veillance, Injury and Violence, Scientific Writing, Geographic Information Systems, Health Policy, Research Ethics, Community-Based Research, and Fundamentals of Biostatistics (new in 2007). For further information, please see U of M' s SPH web- site.	University of Michigan Ann Arbor, MI (734) 764-5435	









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